

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 11, 12, and 13.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Sub F3
A2
1. (Amended) A controlled, sustained release progressive hydration pharmaceutical composition comprising:

an effective amount of an active ingredient that is metabolized by 5 α -reductase,

a bioadhesive, water insoluble, water-swellaable cross-linked polycarboxylic polymer, and

a water soluble polymer,

wherein said composition is formulated to deliver said active ingredient to the bloodstream of a mammal through a mucosal surface of the mammal.

A3
Sub C1
6. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

an effective amount of testosterone at about 1% to about 30% by weight,

a bioadhesive, water insoluble, water-swellaable cross-linked polycarboxylic polymer, and

a water soluble polymer,

wherein said composition is formulated to deliver said testosterone to the bloodstream of a mammal through a mucosal surface of the mammal.

Sub F3
A4
10. (Amended) A method of delivering testosterone to a mammal, comprising administering said testosterone via a progressive hydration composition through a mucosal surface of the mammal, wherein the composition comprises:

a bioadhesive, water insoluble, water-swellaable cross-linked polycarboxylic polymer,

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a water soluble polymer, and

said testosterone,

and wherein said method provides a blood serum concentration ratio of testosterone to 5 α -dihydrotestosterone (DHT) of about 10 to 1 or greater in the bloodstream of said mammal.

14. (Amended) A controlled, sustained release progressive hydration composition for delivering testosterone to the bloodstream of a mammal, comprising:

a bioadhesive, water insoluble cross-linked polycarboxylic polymer,

a water soluble polymer,

and about 1% to about 30% by weight testosterone,

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wherein said composition is formulated to deliver said testosterone through a mucosal surface of the mammal, and to provide a blood serum concentration ratio of testosterone to 5 α -dihydrotestosterone (DHT) of about 10 to 1 or greater in the bloodstream of said mammal.

15. (Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is formulated to deliver said active ingredient via the mammal's nasal cavity.

16. (Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is formulated to deliver said active ingredient via the mammal's rectal cavity.

The amended claims in marked-up form are as follows:

1. (Amended) A controlled, sustained release progressive hydration pharmaceutical composition comprising:

an effective amount of an active ingredient that is metabolized by 5 α -reductase,

a bioadhesive, water insoluble, water-swellaable cross-linked polycarboxylic polymer, and

a water soluble polymer,

wherein said composition is formulated to deliver said active ingredient to the bloodstream of a mammal through a mucosal surface of the mammal.

6. (Amended) A pharmaceutical [The] composition [of claim 3]comprising:

an effective amount of [, wherein said active ingredient is] testosterone [and said testosterone is present in an amount of] at about 1% to about 30% by weight,

a bioadhesive, water insoluble, water-swellaable cross-linked polycarboxylic polymer, and

a water soluble polymer.

wherein said composition is formulated to deliver said testosterone to the bloodstream of a mammal through a mucosal surface of the mammal.

10. (Amended) [The] A method of [claim 9,]delivering [wherein said active ingredient is] testosterone to a mammal, comprising administering said testosterone via a progressive hydration bioadhesive composition through a mucosal surface of the mammal, wherein the composition comprises:

a bioadhesive, water insoluble, water-swellaable cross-linked polycarboxylic polymer,

a water soluble polymer, and

said testosterone,

and wherein said method provides a blood serum concentration ratio of testosterone to 5 α -dihydrotestosterone (DHT) of about 10 to 1 or greater in the bloodstream of said mammal.

14. (Amended) A controlled, sustained release progressive hydration [The] composition [of claim 13,] for delivering testosterone to the bloodstream of a mammal, comprising:

a bioadhesive, water insoluble cross-linked polycarboxylic polymer,

a water soluble polymer,

and about 1% to about 30% by weight testosterone,

wherein said composition is formulated to deliver said testosterone through a mucosal surface of the mammal, and to provide a blood serum concentration ratio of testosterone to 5 α -dihydrotestosterone (DHT) of about 10 to 1 or greater in the bloodstream of said mammal.

15. (Amended) The composition of claim [11] 1, wherein said composition is formulated to deliver said active ingredient via the mammal's nasal cavity.

16. (Amended) The composition of claim [11] 1, wherein said composition is formulated to deliver said active ingredient via the mammal's rectal cavity.